

§§ 1767.42–1767.45

ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS

All payments made to a cushion of credit account should be recorded as follows:

Dr. 224.6, Advance Payments
Unapplied—Long-Term Debt—Debit
Cr. 131.1, Cash—General

All interest earned on the balance of funds in the account should be recorded as follows:

Dr. 224.6, Advance Payments
Unapplied—Long-Term Debt—Debit
Cr. 419, Interest and Dividend Income

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Previously, Rural Development required that the balance in the cushion of credit account be reported, on the Form 7, Financial and Statistical Report, as a reduction of the Rural Development long-term debt balance. On January 15, 2003, Rural Development issued letter guidance permitting a proportionate share of the cushion of credit balance be reported as a reduction in Current Maturities Long-Term Debt. Additionally, beginning with calendar year 2006 submissions, Form 7 has been revised to include a separate line for cushion of credit balances within the long-term debt section of Part C.

For purposes of the audited financial statements, presentation of the balance of the cushion of credit account as a long-term investment is an acceptable alternative to Rural Development.

[58 FR 59825, Nov. 10, 1993, as amended at 59 FR 27436, May 27, 1994; 60 FR 55430, 55435–55438, Nov. 1, 1995; 62 FR 42319–42321, 42323, 42330, Aug. 6, 1997; 73 FR 30288, May 27, 2008]

§§ 1767.42–1767.45 [Reserved]

Subpart C—Depreciation Rates and Procedures [Reserved]

§§ 1767.46–1767.65 [Reserved]

Subpart D—Preservation of Records

SOURCE: 73 FR 30290, May 27, 2008, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1767.66 Purpose.

This subpart establishes policies and procedures for the effective preserva-

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tion and efficient maintenance of financial records of Electric borrowers.

§ 1767.67 General.

(a) Rural Development endorses the guidelines as described by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) "Regulations to Govern the Preservation of Records of Public Utilities and Licensees." The FERC guidelines can be found in 18 CFR part 125.

(b) The regulations prescribed in this part apply to all books of account, contracts, records, memoranda, documents, papers, and correspondence prepared by or on behalf of the borrower as well as those which come into its possession in connection with the acquisition of property by purchase, consolidation, merger, etc.

(c) The regulations prescribed in this part shall not be construed as excusing compliance with any other lawful requirements for the preservation of records.

§ 1767.68 Designation of a supervisory official.

Each borrower shall designate one or more officials to supervise the preservation of its records.

§ 1767.69 Index of records.

(a) Each borrower shall maintain a master index of records. The master index shall identify the records retained, the related retention period, and the locations where the records are maintained. The master index shall be subject to review by Rural Development and Rural Development shall reserve the right to add records, or lengthen retention periods upon finding that retention periods may be insufficient for its purposes.

(b) At each office where records are kept or stored the borrower shall arrange, file, and index the records currently at that site so that they may be readily identified and made available to representatives of Rural Development.

§ 1767.70 Record storage media.

The media used to capture and store the data will play an important part of each Rural Development borrower.

Each borrower has the flexibility to select its own storage media. The following are required:

(a) The storage media shall have a life expectancy at least equal to the applicable retention period provided for in the master index of records, unless there is a quality transfer from one media to another with no loss of data. Each transfer of data from one media to another shall be verified for accuracy and documented.

(b) Each borrower shall implement internal control procedures that assure the reliability of, and ready access to, data stored on machine-readable media. The borrower's internal control procedures shall be documented by a responsible supervisory official.

(c) Records shall be indexed and retained in such a manner that they are easily accessible.

(d) The borrower shall have the hardware and software available to locate, identify, and reproduce the records in readable form without loss of clarity.

(e) At the expiration of the retention period, the borrower may use any appropriate method to destroy records.

(f) When any records are lost or destroyed before the expiration of the retention period set forth in the master index, a certified statement shall be added to the master index listing, as far as may be determined, the records lost or destroyed and describing the circumstances of the premature loss or destruction.

§ 1767.71 Periods of retention.

(a) Records of Rural Development borrowers of a kind not listed in the FERC regulations should be governed by those applicable to the closest similar records. Financial requirement and expenditure statements, which are not specifically covered by FERC regulations, are recommended to be kept for one year after the "as of date" of Rural Development's loan fund and accounting review.

(b) Consumer accounts' records should be kept for those years for which patronage capital has not been allocated.

(c) Records supporting construction financed by Rural Development shall be retained until audited and approved by Rural Development.

(d) Records related to plant in service must be retained until the facilities are permanently removed from utility service, all removal and restoration activities are completed, and all costs are retired from the accounting records unless accounting adjustments resulting from reclassification and original costs studies have been approved by Rural Development or other regulatory body having jurisdiction.

(e) Life and mortality study data for depreciation purposes must be retained for 25 years or for 10 years after plant is retired, whichever is longer.

§§ 1767.72–1767.85 [Reserved]

PART 1770—ACCOUNTING REQUIREMENTS FOR RUS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS

Subpart A—Preservation of Records

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APPENDIX TO SUBPART C—ACCOUNTING METHODS AND PROCEDURES REQUIRED OF ALL BORROWERS

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.; 7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.; Pub. L. 103-354, 108 Stat. 3178 (7 U.S.C. 6941 et seq.).

SOURCE: 55 FR 3388, Feb. 1, 1990, unless otherwise noted.